

Message Text

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SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR JOHNSON'S STATEMENT OF JULY 14, 1976 (SALT
TWO - 1061)

THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR JOHNSON AT
THE SALT TWO MEETING OF JULY 14, 1976.

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JOHNSON JULY 14, 1976

MR. MINISTER: I

TODAY I WANT TO CONTINUE OUR DISCUSSION ON THE CONVERSION OF
LAUNCHERS OF ICBMS AND SLBMS TO MIRVE LAUNCHERS AND THE REMOVAL
OF SYSTEMS EQUIPPED WITH MIRVS FROM THE LIMITATION OF THE 1320
AGGREGATE.

THE UNITED STATES HAS CAREFULLY CONSIDERED THE SOVIET PROPOSALS
AS WELL AS THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE SOVIET DELEGATION WITH
RESPECT TO THE U.S. PROPOSALS FOR ARTICLE VI OF THE JOINT DRAFT

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TEXT. IN THIS CONSIDERATION, WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO DETERMINE IN

WHAT WAYS THE SIDES SHARE SIMILAR VIEWS ON HOW TO DEAL WITH CONVERSIONS. THIS HAS LED US TO CONSIDER HOW THE SIDES MIGHT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THOSE AREAS IN WHICH THERE ARE SIMILAR VIEWS AND THUS ENABLE THE PARTIES TO NARROW THE DIFFERENCES IN OUR APPROACHES. II

IN OUR PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS, BOTH PARTIES HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING TO REACH AGREEMENT AS TO WHEN, IN THE PROCESS OF CONVERSION, LAUNCHERS OF ICBMS AND SLBMS BECOME SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATION OF ARTICLE V. BOTH SIDES AGREE THAT THERE SHOULD BE RULES IN THE AGREEMENT TO DETERMINE THAT POINT IN TIME. FURTHER, BOTH SIDES HAVE AGREED ON A RULE FOR DETERMINING WHEN IN THE PROCESS OF CONVERSION SLBM LAUNCHERS BEGIN TO COUNT IN THE MIRV AGGREGATE. HOWEVER, THERE REMAIN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US IN THE CASE OF ICBM LAUNCHERS. III

IN AN EFFORT TO NARROW THESE DIFFERENCES, THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION PROPOSES THE FOLLOWING REVISION FOR SUBPARAGRAPH 3(A) OF ARTICLE VI:

"(A) FIXED ICBM LAUNCHERS IN THE INITIAL STAGE OF CONVERSION;"

UNDER THIS PROPOSAL, THE STANDING CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION, ACTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBPARAGRAPH 2(B) OF ARTICLE XVII, WOULD DEVELOP PROCEDURES WHICH WOULD SPECIFY THE AGREED POINT DURING THE INITIAL STAGE OF CONVERSION WHEN AN ICBM LAUNCHER BEING CONVERTED TO A MIRV LAUNCHER WOULD BECOME SUBJECT TO THE 1320 LIMITATION OF ARTICLE V. THIS POINT WOULD BE THE EARLIEST POINT IN TIME IN THE INITIAL STAGE OF CONVERSION, VERIFIABLE BY NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS, AT WHICH IT WOULD BE CLEAR THAT THE LAUNCHER WAS BEING CONVERTED TO A MIRV LAUNCHER.

IV

THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT AGREE WITH THE SOVIET PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE IN THE AGREEMENT A RULE FOR DETERMINING WHEN ICBM AND SLBM MIRV LAUNCHERS UNDERGOING CONVERSION FOR MISSILES NOT EQUIPPED WITH MIRVS CEASE TO BE SUBJECT TO THE AGGREGATE LIMITATION OF ARTICLE V. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT PARAGRAPH 5 OF ARTICLE VI OF THE JOINT DRAFT TEXT ADEQUATELY DEALS WITH THE QUESTION

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OF REMOVING MIRV LAUNCHERS FROM THE LIMITATIONS OF ARTICLE V.

V

MR. MINISTER, I HAVE PRESENTED A PROPOSAL FOR DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM OF CONVERSION OF ICBM LAUNCHERS TO MIRV LAUNCHERS. I SUGGEST THAT PARAGRAPHS 3 AND 4 OF ARTICLE VI BE REFERRED TO THE DRAFTING WORKING GROUP.

JOHNSON

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NNN

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